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NASHVILLE -- Governor Don Sundquist today announced the grand opening of the Five Rivers Regional Career Center, calling on employers and workers to utilize the comprehensive employment centers.

“These centers are where people connect with jobs and employers find qualified workers,” Sundquist announced. “The centers are the cornerstone of our Workforce Development initiative with the goal of making Tennessee’s labor force the best in the nation.”

Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill was joined in ribbon cutting ceremonies by Human Services Commissioner Natasha Metcalf, Heiskell Winstead, Chairman of the Chief Elected Officials, and local Workforce Development Board members.

“The center will broaden our ability to bring employers and job seekers in this region together while offering a wide range of services,” Commissioner Magill explained. “In the past, employment efforts have been too scattered and have too often left out the employer’s needs. The Tennessee Career Center System is changing that and will provide one central place to meet employment needs. There are now 14 full-service centers with affiliate sites all across the state to meet the workforce development needs of our customers.”

Heiskell Winstead, Chairman of the Chief Elected Officials, said, “The opening of the Five Rivers Regional Career Center has provided a unique opportunity for agencies meeting the needs of job seekers and employers in the area to provide their services in one convenient location.”

Roger Ball, local Workforce Investment Board Chair, noted how well the center addresses the workforce development needs of the community. “The Career Center will serve as a central point in meeting the needs of local employers and job seekers and serve as a key resource to businesses in the area to obtain good, quality employees.”

The Center is the result of a partnership between the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Human Services, and Walters State Community College, Administrator for Title I WIA. It will serve Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Sevier and Union counties.

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NOTE: Media coverage is invited.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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